



(Photo by Pfc. Jon Cano 2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs)

"The Peoples Champ"

Rapper Paul Wall greets soldiers at the Moral, Welfare and Recreation facility on Camp Striker, Iraq Feb 23. Actor/comedian Jamie Kennedy was also on hand to perform for the troops. After the show, the entertainers sat for pictures and signed autographs.

Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon on the upswing

By Master Sgt. Dave Larsen
1st Cav. Div. Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - Sixty-nine company-level or higher operations by Multi-National Division - Baghdad and Iraqi security forces have netted 63 weapons caches, including an anti-aircraft weapon, armor-piercing rounds, rocket-propelled grenade launchers, improvised explosive device-making materials, mortar rounds, TNT and thousands of rounds of small arms ammunition. One-hundred sixty-seven suspects have been detained since the security plan for the Iraqi capital, Operation Fardh Al-Qanoon (Enforcing the Law), began Feb. 14.

More than 32,000 security patrols have been conducted in and around the Iraqi capital,

aimed at improving the security situation, with more than half of those completed by Iraqi police and national police forces, according to Brig. Gen. John F. Campbell, deputy commanding general for maneuver for MND-Baghdad.

"Even with ten days into the security plan, it's still too early to talk trends," he said. "Still, Iraqi and coalition commanders at all levels remain cautiously optimistic."

Reporting of sectarian murders is at the lowest level in almost a year. Improvised explosive device attacks have declined by more than 20 percent. Reporting indicates security operations are frustrating the Al Qaeda networks' efforts to resupply and hindering their movement throughout Baghdad. Still, Al Qaeda Iraq

remains determined to drive the country into further violence.

This intent is seen played out in recent Al Qaeda -conducted attacks. As their freedom of movement throughout Baghdad is reduced, Al Qaeda has resorted to use of suicide vest attacks against innocent civilian gatherings, like the attack outside a university Feb. 25 and earlier this week against a Shiite memorial service.

Coalition force presence in Tarmiyah, a long-standing staging area for Al Qaeda attacks, has increased over the past three months. In response, elements of Al Qaeda

Providers give 'life' to Iraqi baby boy

By Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie
2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs

YUSUFIYAH, Iraq - Soldiers recently received something they least expected - a baby.

Soldiers from the 210th Brigade Support Battalion "Providers" and the 4th Battalion 31st Infantry Regiment "Polar Bears," both units of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), took care of a sick Iraqi baby boy at the Patrol Base Yusufiyah aid station here.

"The baby's mother brought him to us because he was very sick," said Maj. Casey Geaney, a native of Portland, Ore., who serves as a battalion surgeon currently attached to the 4-31st.

Knowing that the baby, Sajad, was very ill and that the Iraqi medical system did not have the capabilities to care for the infant, Geaney decided Sajad would become an in-patient.

"Usually this is not an in-patient facility," Geaney explained. "However, after discovering the child had an infection we did not want him to go home."

Sajad, who was seven months of age, was only the size of a two-month-old. He was believed to have suffered brain injury during his birth.

"Sajad was very dehydrated and sick when we first saw him," said Spc. Carrielynn



(Photo by Staff Sgt. Angela McKinzie 2-10 Mtn. Public Affairs)

Spc. Carrielynn Spillis, a medic with the 210th BSB, 2nd BCT, 10th Mtn. Div. takes care of Sajad, a sick Iraqi infant.

Spillis, a 210th BSB medic and native of Toledo, Ohio, as she held him in her arms. "We have been feeding him through a tube because he was too weak to feed from a bottle." Keeping Sajad was a huge responsibility for the team. He required around-the-clock attention, just as any infant.

"We would take turns watching him," Spillis explained. "One medic would stay with him at the aid station during the night and others would watch him during the day."

"It's tiring to take care of him," said Spc. Erin Byers, a medic with the 210th BSB and

native of Guys Mills, Penn. "But it is a nice change of pace. I am used to dealing with Soldiers, but Sajad allowed me to be compassionate - it is a different mindset."

After caring for Sajad for four days, Geaney decided he was well enough to return home. But before releasing the infant, Geaney and the medics taught Sajad's father how to care for him.

"They (the doctor and medics) did a nice job," said Nasseir Alaobed, Sajad's father, as he was learning to feed his son through a tube. "The Iraqi hospitals do not have this kind of care and I am glad I brought him in."

Sajad was returned to his parents fully hydrated and with more strength. At one point, Spillis was mentioned that Sajad was actually feeding from a bottle. Though the Soldiers were able to care for Sajad, the need for Iraqi children to see doctors in Iraq is immense.

"There are a lot of children with chronic problems and it is frustrating that we are seeing so many patients that need help," Geaney said. "But we do what we can do to help."

"Sajad has a better chance of survival," Geaney added with a smile. Sajad's parents were sent home with lessons on how to care for him and infant formula that contained extra calories in order to help the infant gain weight.

Arabic Phrase of the Day

bariid

**Defined:
mail**

Iraq 3-Day Weather Report



Today

High: 73
Low: 55



Tomorrow

High: 70
Low: 52



Thursday

High: 70
Low: 52

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(Photo by Sgt. Marcus Butler 4-25 Inf. Public Affairs)

Lt. Gen. Qais, commander of Babil Province police, answers questions from media embers following Kalsu Conference III with Iraqi security force and coalition leaders at Forward Operating Base Kalsu Feb. 24.

Kalsu Conference III

4-25 Inf. Public Affairs

KALSU, Iraq - Iraqi and American security leaders representing the Iraqi police, Iraqi Army, provincial military transition teams, the Multi-National Division - Baghdad and other units operating in northern Babil and Karbala gathered here Feb. 24 to coordinate and plan operations that will allow the transition of security responsibility to provincial Iraqi control.

"Iraqi security forces have demonstrated the skill to enforce security in their respective provinces," said Col. Michael Garrett, commander, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division and a Cleveland native. "They already provide most of the security in the provinces." The security coordination meeting was the third in four months. A conference took place in November after 4th BCT assumed control of the area and again last month.

The meeting was also an opportunity for face-to-face contact with counterparts in the Iraqi security forces and the Spartan Brigade from Fort Richardson, Alaska.

Maj. John Rafferty, a Scranton, Pa. native and plans officer for 4th BCT, reviewed the upcoming security priorities for the ISF who will lead the operations in the area where they work. "Future security operations will occur through cooperative plans that will focus on ISF in the lead," said Rafferty. The ISF, with minor support from coalition forces will protect the

public, prevent attacks, and promote ISF in the lead. The government of Iraq is in charge and providing security, Rafferty explained.

"It is clear that we have gained ground since our first security conference," he said. "Our unity of effort; working at one goal with the same picture, has been apparent." Past joint operations, like the security of the Ashura religious pilgrimage were reviewed.

"Our work for Ashura made the enemy think twice about their actions. Our combined efforts have reduced enemy activities and effectiveness," said Brig. Gen. Imad, commander, 4th Brigade, 8th Iraqi Army Division.

Maj. Max Moore, a Freeport, N.Y., native and operations officer with the Spartan Brigade, emphasized the goal of making next year's Ashura religious pilgrimage just as safe, if not safer than this year's.

"We are getting better and better after each conference and we see this more clearly each time we meet," Garrett said of the gathering. "And we had the opportunity to sit down and eat a meal with our brothers-in-arms."

Terrorist and insurgents in the provinces' area are a great threat, Garrett said, but the challenge to the ISF in providing security is a political one.

"No one should be outside the rule of law and anyone who is, will be subject to law enforcement by the ISF," Garrett said. "I am supremely confident in their work."

Baghdad in Brief

Cavalry troops find cache, detain suspect

KORESH, Iraq - Multi-National Division - Baghdad troops found a weapons cache near the village of Koresh, Iraq during a security patrol at approximately 9:30 a.m. Feb. 24.

Soldiers of the 1st Squadron, 89th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry) found a weapons stockpile consisting of two rocket-propelled grenade warheads, a star-cluster flare, 600 rounds of linked 7.62mm ammunition, an assault rifle, two machine guns, a machine-gun barrel and two bipods for rifles.

The Soldiers detained the owner of the property where the cache was discovered for questioning.

An explosive ordnance disposal team was called in and conducted a controlled detonation to destroy the weapons and munitions.




**OPERATION IRAQI
FREEDOM**

WHY WE WEAR PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT




This Soldier was the gunner of an M1114 riding at name tape defilade when the vehicle was struck by an IED. Shrapnel hit his ballistic goggles and a piece of shrapnel was embedded in his Interceptor Body Armor (IBA). Without protective equipment, this story would have a tragic ending.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

COMBAT PROVEN PROTECTION

WEAR IT TO SURVIVE

Security and assistance operations on the rise

Security

From Page 1

staged a complex suicide car bomb attack against a combat outpost last week in Tarmiyah. The attack had the opposite effect Al Qaeda intended by attracting greater security focus in the area.

Elements of Muqtada al Sadr's Jaysh al Mahdi seem to be practicing a policy of non-interference with Operation Fardh Al Qanoon. Security forces see this as a combination of senior militia leadership departing Baghdad during the surge, Sadr's call for Iraqi unity and a wait-and-see attitude on the part of remaining militia members. It is not clear at this point to what extent the Iraqi population is simply tired of militias.

A statement, attributed to Sadr, was read by a Sadr spokesman in Sadr City Feb. 25, condemning the shedding of Iraqi blood, a clear reference to the death squads accused of adding to the sectarian violence.

Another positive development seen during on-going security operations has been the persistence of senior Iraqi leadership holding their government, their ministries and their fellow civilian and military leadership accountable for fulfilling promises to the population. Atmospheric reports indicate that the increase in security presence throughout Baghdad has given the population hope; a hope the Iraqi government seeks to sustain.

Each day there are several large-scale operations on-going throughout the city as part of Operation Fardh al-Qanoon. Among them, Operation Polar Iron, teamed up troops from the 2nd Battalion of the 5th Cavalry Regiment, 4th Battalion of the 31st Infantry Regiment and 4th Battalion of the 4th Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division in a clearing operation in a predominately Sunni area southwest of the Iraqi capital. The operation detained 32 suspects Feb. 17.

Another, Operation Arrowhead Strike VI ran from Feb. 14-22 in the predominately Sh'ia northeastern Baghdad neighborhoods of Shaab and Ur. The operation, led by Soldiers from the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, and the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 82nd Airborne Division, uncovered eight weapons caches and detained 11 suspects.

In western Baghdad, Operation Daredevil conducted by Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 5th



(Photo by Sgt. Michael Garrett 7th MPAD)

Sgt. Tomas Tavarez, with, 2nd Bn., 325th Parachute Inf. Regt., 82nd Abn. Div., watches the courtyard of a home in Adhamiyah during a security patrol Feb. 17.

Cavalry Regiment, found and disarmed nine different roadside bombs, saving an unknown number of lives by making the roadways safer for Iraqi residents and security forces.

The first 10 days of the security plan's implementation hasn't been without violent terrorist attacks, Campbell said. The largest attack against U.S. forces came Feb. 19 when a combat outpost - a small unit outpost in a remote rural area north of Baghdad experienced a coordinated enemy assault. The unit held the outpost during the battle in which two Soldiers lost their lives and five others were seriously wounded requiring evacuation.

Despite the terrorists' use of a suicide vehicle bomb, rocket-propelled grenades and a steady stream of small arms fire, the U.S. defenders of the outpost maintained security and were able to fight back and detain seven suspected gunmen. Many of the defenders received minor wounds and were able to return to their duty after being treated, without evacuation.

"Iraqis have shown resolve," Campbell said. "Together, we'll hold the ground we've gained thus far, and we will continue to push extremist elements out of Baghdad neighborhoods."

Even as security operations have picked up across the Iraqi capital, MND-B continues to work with Iraqi governmental representatives on civil military operations designed to improve living conditions, infrastructure and

quality of life.

"Our operations to improve security are coupled with equally important actions we are taking to advance good governance, to stimulate economic growth, and to build on the public sensing that life must go on in spite of the intimidations by militias or the brutal attacks by terrorists," said Brig. Gen. Vincent Brooks, the deputy commanding general for support who oversees the command's efforts in the areas of governance and economic development.

One such initiative is on-going in the Babil province, south of the Iraqi capital, where agriculture is the staple of the local economies.

"More than 35 miles of canals have been cleaned and repaired," said Navy Cmdr. Michael Sanchez, a civil military plans officer with MND-B. "This aids in irrigation, the reduction of flooding and helps prevent erosion, affecting more than 600 families served by the Mahawil Canal system in Babil."

Sanchez said the civil military operation is a joint effort involving local leaders, the provincial government and the Babil Provincial Reconstruction Team and the 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team of the 25th Infantry Division, the southernmost unit of Multi-national Division Baghdad. In western Baghdad, Sanchez said a basic nursing course operating from the Radwaniya Civil Military Operations Center held its final examination and graduated 18 Iraqi students in its inaugural class this week.

In eastern Baghdad, Sanchez said future civil military operations could be forthcoming, as an economics assessment team worked throughout the week in Baghdad's Adhamiyah district.

"The team members assessed business opportunities in the district," he said. Sanchez added that business leaders also met on the west side of the Iraqi capital.

"More than 24 business leaders in the Mansour area met for the first time to discuss the formation of the Mansour Chamber of Commerce," Sanchez said.

Just 10 days into the implementation of Fardh Al-Qanoon, Campbell said the progress and successes of the plan won't be seen in a matter of days or weeks, but rather in months.

"It will take time," he said. "There will be some tough days, but we are committed to our Iraqi comrades in arms and to this operation."

CSM gives a history lesson to troops

By Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim
2-1 Cav. Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE PROSPERITY, Iraq - Most Black Jack Soldiers know the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division's history, but during its Black History Month observance Feb. 16, the keynote speaker spoke about the 9th U.S. Cavalry and its "Buffalo Soldiers."

Command Sergeant Major James P. Daniels, 4th "Dark Horse" Squadron, 9th Cavalry Regiment's top noncommissioned officer started his history lesson of the many contributions made by the black Soldiers of the 9th Cavalry, and the many contributions

made by black Soldiers in today's Army.

"My EO (Equal Opportunity) rep asked me (to speak at the gathering), being a sergeant major of the 9th Cav. - especially 4-9, and of course, I said, 'Yes,'" said Daniels. "I did it because they said I'm a role model. I don't look at myself as a role model. I just look at myself as a Soldier. I am honored to have those kind words used for me, though."

Taking the national theme - African Americans in the Military, Then and Now - Daniels went back to something his father told him in his youth.

"My father once told me that nothing in life is free - there's a lot of sweat in it," recalled the

Fort Gaines, Ga., native.

The history lesson was "educational" for Staff Sgt. Jammie Blunt, a Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd BCT food service sergeant from Newport News, Va.

"I really didn't know a lot about the Buffalo Soldier history," he admitted. "Today, I learned something important, and it's important because it expands our culture. It makes me feel elite, because we overcame and rose to become successful."

As the brigade EO representative, Sgt. 1st Class Atoro Barnes, he said that all observances are important to celebrate and learn about. Yet, he said this one was special because of Daniels' Buffalo Soldier theme.

"It shows us how great the history of the 1st Cav is and also 4-9 Cav - especially to the African Americans," said Barnes of Asbury Park, N.J. "Growing up, not many of us were taught in school about other races there were [in the military]."

Daniels said the intent of his speech and history lesson was to show others to appreciate the positive contributions that yesterday's Soldiers have given us.

"Because of their many sacrifices, we are allowed to serve with our brothers-in-arms as Soldiers. We serve together toward one common goal: to serve our nation," Daniels said.

"It is time for us to give back to what they didn't have," he concluded. "Everyday, history is being made. It's up to us to reflect on that history and see how far we have come."



(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kap Kim 2-1 Cav. Public Affairs)

Capt. Latonya Jones (left), and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Betty Fisher, of, look through a display of famous African-American icons at FOB Prosperity Feb. 16

